



### **U.S. Navy Petty Officer First Class Virginia M. Mayo**

Petty Officer First Class Virginia M. Mayo is a nine-year veteran of the United States Navy and is currently serving as part of the *Why We Serve* speakers program. She returned from assignment in Iraq in January 2007 and is speaking to groups around the country about her personal experiences as the Combat Life Save Program Coordinator for her unit.

Mayo joined the Navy in 1998 and was assigned to the U.S. Navy Recruit Training Command in Great Lakes, Ill. Her first assignment was as a Field Platoon Corpsman under Operation Bulldog in Quantico, Va. She was later assigned to the 3rd Force Service Support Group, 3rd Transportation Support Battalion in Okinawa, Japan, where she was selected to be the first female Corpsmen attached to the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit Service Support Group. During this time, Mayo deployed to Thailand in support of Cobra Gold 2000. Following her deployment, Mayo joined the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, 38th Marine Air Control Group, where she earned her Fleet Marine Force Warfare Device and was selected as sailor of the Quarter three times.

In November 2002, Mayo was transferred to Field Medical Service School as an instructor, where she earned her Master Training Specialist Qualification and was selected as Staff Member of the Quarter. Following that, Mayo reported as the leading Petty Officer to the first Marine Expeditionary Force Headquarters Group.

In January 2006, Mayo deployed to Iraq with the First Marine Expeditionary Force Headquarters Group Aid Station as the Leading Petty Officer and Combat Life Saver Program Coordinator. Her responsibilities included the training and scheduling of all Corpsmen and Army Medics at Camp Fallujah for combat-related missions, and organizing the triage and movement of surgical casualties. In addition, Mayo participated in over fifteen combat-related missions, including convoys and dismounted patrols. In one combined medical engagement, she provided medical care and humanitarian assistance to over 300 locals from a village within the Al Anbar province. Prior to Mayo's return from Iraq in January 2007, she was chosen to act as the Staff Noncommissioned Officer in Charge of Operation Lioness and lead a search team of junior female Marines during a mission to the city of Barwanah.

Mayo's decorations include the Sea Service Deployment Ribbon, Fleet Marine Force Ribbon, four Navy Achievement Medals, two Good Conduct Medals, and the Overseas Deployment Ribbon.